FROM SPARK TO SPACE

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club -- since 1917

February, 2000 Vol. 08 No. 02

club officers

President Dave DeFebo	529-5583 WB9BWP
1st V. Pres. Matt Planning	475-6404 KB9PRC
2nd V. P. Brian White	KB9LCQ@arrl.net KB9LCQ
Secretary 1 (262) Jim Tromblay	968-2724 WB9LNU
Treasurer Ken Eggert	796-0969 W9MOT

Board of Directors

Barbara Brewer (99-01)	KB9TIV 771-0640
Pancho Doneis (99-01)	KA9OFA 344-4694
Al Drobac (99-01)	AA9XH 302-1343
Rich McNew (98-00)	WB9PTC 453-6781
Kate Kedney (98-00) (262)	KA9MWT 896-9676
Tom Fuszard (98-00)	KF9PU 321-5845

HamateurChatter Editor

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA 344-4694

Mailings

Barbara Brewer KB9TIV 771-0640

John Merkl WB9PSE 259-9091

From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Dave DeFebo

In this issue of the newsletter should be a survey discussing the club repeater and nets. Please take the time to answer the questions and get it back to the board (either via the PO Box or personal delivery or email - w9rh@arrl.net) within the next month. We need some guidance from the club about how to proceed with the repeater and net operations.

If you received this issue in the mail (or email), it probably means you are paid up for the year 2000. Didn't get this in the mail? Maybe you have not paid your dues yet. Contact Ken Eggert to be sure. Also do you have any club patches coming? Contact Ken for that also.

This should also be the first issue of the newsletter which you may be reading electronically. If you have an email address and we know about it, you will be receiving the newsletter via email. Have email and we don't know about it? Contact Brian White (bwhite@execpc.com). Doing so will allow us to print fewer paper copies and to purchase less postage. Based on our budget projections for the year, the newsletter is our biggest expense by far (just over $1600), and contributes to our projecting a loss of around $1300 for the year. Preliminary guesses say that we should be able to save at least $200-$300 in newsletter

continued on page 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670 -	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Computer Net
FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045 ±	W9RH 2 mtr. FM net after the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800 +	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910 -	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910 -	Swap Net

The 2 meter FM frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter SSB frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho - KA9OFA at **344-4694** or call::

1-(262)-797-MRAC or (797-6722).

HAMATEURCHATTER is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and and a high standard of conduct. MRAC Membership dues are $15.^{00}$ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is (262) 797-MRAC.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225
Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM.
the last Thursday of the month excepti for December.

Presidents Desk continued from page 1

costs in the first year based just on what we know now about members email availability. The more members with email, the greater the savings.

This month's meeting program will be Don Michalski W9IXH, ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager. He contacted us wishing to speak at a meeting (I delayed him from January due to possible poor weather - after all, this is Wisconsin. It's not often any ARRL official contacts the club, so we should take advantage of the opportunity.

I have a personal web page with a lot of assorted stuff on it (including a perpetual resume). Until the club gets something more official going (along with someone to take care of it), I have some space devoted to club info and activities. Check it out: http://www.execpc.com/~wb9bwp takes you to the real start of the page. www.execpc.com/~wb9bwp/page7.html goes directly to the MRAC area. Be sure to check out the For Sale area too, it has some of my personal stuff as well as club stuff for sale.

Just a reminder, April 15 marks the day the new license structure goes into effect. If you currently have an Advanced class license and think you may ever want an Extra, now is the time to take the Extra written test. MRAC VEC has 2 testing sessions before the rules change, March 25 (you may be too late for this) and April 8 (Superfest). Take the written test now, get a CSCE, then come back after April 15, fill out another form and pay another fee and become an Extra. Also, anyone who had a technician license before March 21, 1987 can become upgraded to General just by doing the form and fee thing after April 15.

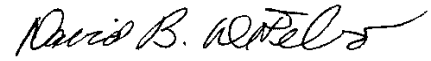
The new license rules present a real opportunity for us to get back into the license class business (no, we don't make money so it's not really a business). Actually it would have been good for us to have an Extra class now, but we were not able to act on it. Anyway, if anyone has an idea for a class location (a room or 2 with tables and chairs for 6-9 weeks of 1day per week for low cost or free) please let the board know. We are ready and willing to run classes again (we went on hiatus in 1996 after 20 continuous years), we just need a place to do it which we can afford.

We still need a Christmas party committee. Vern Teske is looking into a possible location. We need a couple of more people to coordinate all the other aspects of a party. No committee, no party? Speaking of volunteers, how about someone to coordinate Field Day? Jim Tromblay has most of the club equipment, so a coordinator really needs to just arrange food and handle the logs.

Notice how I am always asking for help (Christmas Party, Field Day, whatever)? For too many years the same people have done most of the work for the club. We need to spread the work around. With enough volunteers, any one task is not really that huge. Maybe you want to volunteer to run for office? Nominations for all officers and 3 directors happen at the April meeting.

Don't forget Superfest April 7th and 8th. MRAC will be testing on the 8th (probably the last chance for a test before the rules change) and we should have a table on both the 7th and 8th. Also Dave Sumner K1ZZ VP of ARRL will be at Superfest. Maybe you would like to spend some time staffing the club table?

73 for now,



WB9BWP

HAMATEURCHATTER

Wanted

Looking for 19" rack shelves and other rack stuff (cabinets not needed right now). Thanks...
Dave - WB9BWP
529-5583 or Email
"Dave DeFebo"
<wb9bwp@execpc.com>

MRAC Board Meeting 2/23/2000

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- $3,103.02 Liquid and $ 8,103.02 Total with CD.

Ken, W9MOT also says that maybe Bob Hensiak, N9VTN may be interested in taking the Treasurers job.

Special thanks were given to Al, AA9XH for arranging the board meeting. The location of the March meeting has not been determined yet.

The club will be renting a table at the SEWFARS swap fest on March 12th. The Treasurer was authorized to order a 8' table.

Tom, KF9PU, our data entry VEC, informed the board that we will have a new CSCE and test after April 15th to reflect the new FCC rules. Tom is also looking for someone who would like to volunteer as a back-up Data Entry person in case he is not around after a testing session.

The board will make a repeater and net survey. Al will provide Pancho, KA9OFA with the survey info for the 'Chatter. The survey is to determine if the club should keep the repeater or sell it, since almost none of the members use it. To make a super repeater out of it, with auxiliary receive site, etc. would cost more money than we have at present. A new site alone may not be the only improvements needed. The repeater amplifier will have to be sold and a new one that is compatible with the new repeater will have to be purchased.

Del Clark, KA9ZMK donated a printer to the club. The board decided to keep it to print the mailing labels and badges etc. Matt - KB9PRC will have the badges at the next meeting. You must come to a meeting to receive your badge.

Ken, W9MOT has several club patches left. You can purchase them from Ken at the meeting. If you want to order one please send a S.A.S.E. plus $5.00.

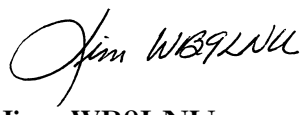
We are still deciding on the QSL and business cards. The board will also decide on a new club hand out sheet, to be used at swap fest and other events. All members will receive a new roster every year in one of the 'Chatters.

The board will try to reduce some of the 'Chatter printing and mailing cost by providing an electronic 'Chatter. More on this to come.

The board is talking about possible future classes for Tech and General Class license. A place to have the classes is still in question.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Dinosaurs or Not? (Editorial)

Are we a club of dinosaurs or a club of progressive thinking amateur radio operators? This is a question which I hope that you can answer for me.

I'd like to think that WE are the progressive type of people.

What makes amateur radio FUN? What good is HAM radio? I think that WE will have to address these questions in the very near future if we are to survive much less prosper as a hobby and a Club.

What is it that drew YOU to HAM radio? We all have different experiences to relate. What are they? What makes OUR hobby fun? Think about it. I'd like to know. What will it take to attract new people to OUR hobby and our Club?

We will HAVE to sell HAM radio to new people. It would be nice to bring in some of the people who already know "what it's all about", but WE will HAVE to SELL HAM radio to new people (people who don't know that HAM radio is not the same as CB — and that don't know that HAM radio is MORE than just grabbing a mic and gabbing).

I know, we will see a jump in licensing and upgrades in the near future because of license restructuring, but that's only a short term thing and won't cut it in the long run.

We've got to convince people about the FUN of HAM radio. If it's not fun, then it won't even begin to compete with ANY of the other distractions (Internet, CB radio, cell phones, digital TV, computers, noisy sound systems in cars, hunting, fishing, other sports, etc.).

Let's face it, our hobby has more competition than it has ever had before. We're going to have to do something about it.

What do we do? How can we sell newcomers?

Are we just going to sit here and vegetate (become the modern day dinosaurs) or are we going to become a dynamic force in the 21st century like we were in the early days of this century?

If we're to be the dynamic ones, then I'd like to be around to see it. If not, I can go to the museum to see dinosaurs.

73 de

Pancho - KA9OFA

MRAC Club Meeting 2/26/00

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved with one correction, Ken, W9MOT will stay on as Treasurer until someone replaces him. We need a volunteer badly.

Treasurers report -- $3,123.02 Liquid and $8,123.02 Total with CD. Between the dues and the interest the club gets on our last CD, we barely can cover our yearly expenses. The 'Chatter uses most of the dues money. We also have Field Day, insurance, Christmas Party and other business expenses. The mic was passed for all to I.D. Badges were given out at the meeting. Remember, to get your badge, you must come to a meeting.

Jim - WB9LNU

Kate, KA9MWT has volunteered to replace Jerry, KC9EV on the board until the elections this year. April is nominations month and May is the elections. All officers and 3 directors are up for election. We need volunteers to help the club. It's a good way to get to know everyone and have fun while you're at it.

A repeater and friday night net survey will be in the Chatter. The repeater amp is up for sale and a 110 watt UHF amp. The survey will be self explanatory when you see it.

Del Clark donated a computer printer to the club which will be used to print mailing labels, badges etc.

The club will have an auction in May. Anyone can sell equipment at the auction for themselves or donate to the club. More details at the next meeting.

We need a Christmas Party committee again this year. This time the group will have total charge of the arrangements. Vern, W9RYA has volunteered again this year to find a place for the party. He has also volunteered to help at the club auction in May and offered some details on how to run an auction.

We need a Field Day Chairman again this year. The Chairman must arrange for the food and do the log entry for the ARRL. The club equipment will be brought out buy WB9LNU.

Dave, WB9BWP, our president, auctioned off some more equipment for the club.

John, KF9XL gave the latest news regarding the VEC testing program and explained the new rules after April 15th. New CSCE's and test will be used. The only code test will be for 5 WPM.

Silent keys, W9ROM and W9GIL.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

A continuation of January's member awareness talks followed. More very interesting stories.

Thanks to our devoted kitchen crew for the soda and donuts.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim WB9LNU

Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

Credits

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP WB9LNU W9NZF
NKB9LCQ KF9XL

We would also like to thank Alfred Huwald, and Myron Hendricks for taking care of the refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks to Rita Doneis, Kristi Potochnik and Armin Doneis, III for their help in the proofreading dept.

Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Barbara Brewer for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Also our thanks goes to Tom Scherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for handling the Raffle at the meetings.

Thank you very much!

Feb. VE Testing

Here is a summary of the test session. MRAC-VEC held VE testing on Sat. Feb 26, 2000 at AES. There were 53 candidates, and 10 were successful in either upgrading or getting their first license. 65 exam elements were given, and 48 were passed. A special thank you to the following 13 VE's who administered the exams:

Barbara Brewer KB9TIV
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Ken Caruso KS4NX
Bob Immekus W9CYI
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Kraak KF9XL
Jack Krause W9JK
Will Lorenz W9ZOL
Dick McNew WB9PTC
Norm McNew KB9QL
John Merkl WB9PSE
Joe Mettry AA9DO
Jim Tromblay WB9LNU

73,

John (KF9XL)

John KF9XL

Extra VE Session for Upgrade Paperwork

MRAC-VEC has scheduled an additional VE session on Monday evening, April 17, 2000 from 6 to 8 PM at Amateur Electronic Supply. This will be an upgrade paperwork processing only session with no new exams given. Candidates should bring the necessary papers and a copy of (licenses/ CSCE/ proof of meeting upgrade requirements). The fee will be $ 6.65.

73,
John - KF9XL

MAJOR GENERAL LOREN G. WINDOM W8GZ

Amateur Radio lost one of its true pioneers on Feb.1,1988 with the passing of Windy, W8GZ - active since 1917,first licensed in 1919. His career spanned 71 years in Ham Radio holding a string of calls, and winding up with 8GZ-later W8CZ.

By late 1919, 8GZ was a 1/2 KW spark - later a full KW on CW in 1925 in Columbus, Ohio. There, he set a world "low power" record,as reported in QST's "Fifty Years of the ARRL".

The Jewel Electric Instrument Co., sponsored the contest, the winner would be the ham that accomplished the "greatest-miles-per-watt. The wattage was the TOTAL input to ALL TUBES, including the filaments! He won it with his QSO with Australian 5BG, using an input power of 0.567 watts over a distance of 10,100 miles,(17,820 mi./watt!!) His tube - a 199 with 4 volts on the filament and 70 volts on the plate! He was a frequent contributor to QST from 1926 until his death. His first article was in 1929-Sept. issue QST. He described an off - center fed Hertz antenna, (widely known as the Windom!), which he had been using for several years, finishing 2nd in 1927 & 3rd in 1928 (DX)contests).

Keynote speaker in 1927 ARRL convention, he discussed the "Windom" with the ARRL crowd at Ohio State. He served 2 terms as Director for the Central Division in 1931 to 1933.

WW II found Lt.Col.Windom with the 37th Div. in the Pacific, having collected a string of medals for his accomplishments.

Follwing WWII, "Windy" returned to become Ass't. US Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio. His first published article in QST after the war was "Modernizing the HRO" - his design changes were later incorporated by National Radio. Later, in Vol. 5 of "Hints and Kinks", he described the construction of 5 meter coils for the HRO (Roger Zaun, take note - it would be nice to know what they were)!

He returned to DX in 1950, and by 1957 he achieved the first DXCC on SSB. His goal was to lead the DXCC Honor roll on phone. During the '50's, his military career advanced and in 1954 he was made a Brig. Gen. (1 Star),and in 1959, he became a Maj. Gen. (2 stars).

He served as Adjutant General of Ohio from 1959 to 1963, and as Commanding Gen. of the 37th Inf. Div. during 1960 to 1965.

In June 1968 W8GZ achieved his DX goal. He held the No.1 position, although holding the spot with Don Wallace W6AM, no one exceeded his country totals on phone.

Announcement of SBDXCC in 1968 was just the sort of challenge that Windy liked. At 63 yrs of age, he started and was issued award No. 4 in Dec. 1969. Unfortunately, his heart attack in 1969 rendered him unable to pursue the the QSL's he needed.

In the late 60's and early '70's, he devised modifications for his 75A4 receiver, and shared them with many of his friendly DX'rs. He was also working toward DXCC on 6 meters, and in 1979 he received the 6 meter WAS award no. 305.

Windy retired his old faithful 75A4 and Central Electronics 200V in 1980 and replaced them with a Drake TR7/R7 combo.He left behind him 71 years of Ham operation with many records and awards, but a family of which he was very proud.The death of W8GZ closed another chapter in the long history of amateur radio.

Sic transit Windy!

Fred

Fred - W9NZF

Doings

This Month

We will feature Don Michalski W9IXH, ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager, for our program at this month's meeting.

May Meeting

Our May meeting will feature Election of Officers and three directors AND our famous auction whereby you bring your treasures and we auction them off for you. Come to the meeting and sell or buy and help elect our new slate of officers.

SuperFest

AES SuperFest is Friday April 7th and Saturday April 8th. We need people to help man our Club table and also help with Testing on Saturday April 8th.

If we get enough people to man the table then everyone will only have to be there a short time.

Field Day 2,000

June 24th and 25th is Field Day at Pioneer Village in Cedarburg. We still need a Field Day chairperson (coordinator). We could also use some more operators for the Field Day stations (any licensed operator can do it).

Come on out for this event -- Join the fun!

Cieszki's on Sick List

It has been reported by Ed - KE9JJ that Harry Cieszki - K4VKW and his wife, Donna have had a bout with pneumonia and were in the hospital. Harry has been released, but as of this writing, Donna is still hospitalized.

BIRTHDAYS

April Birthdays

	Birthdate
Brooks K. Blanchard - KE9CR	4/7
James H. Ott - W9LCD	4/14
Syl P. Janczak - WD9JKZ	4/17
John S. Friedrichsen - WA9NAY	4/18
Ron R. Crown - KA9JCP	4/21
Mark Bye - KB9LDX	4/22
John Kraak - KF9XL	4/30

73,

Brian - KB9LCQ

¡¡Happy Birthday !!

events (upcoming)

* indicates VE testing

MRAC VE Testing *
Sat. - Mar. 25, 2000
9:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon
AES
Milwaukee, WI

NSRCfest *
Sun. - Mar. 26, 2000
Lake Co. Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 147.345+.600 or 146.52 simp

MRAC Board mtg.
Mon - Mar 27, 2000

MRAC
General Membership Mtg.
Thu. - Mar. 30, 2000
7:30 P.M.
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

AES SuperFest *
Fri. & Sat. - April 7& 8, 2000
AES
Milwaukee,WI

Madison SwapFest
Sun. - Apr. 9, 2000
Mandt Community Center
Stoughton Junior Fairgrounds
Stoughton, WI
T/I on 147.15

Ozaukee Radio Club SwapFest *
May 6, 2000
Circle "B" Recreation Center
Cedarburg, WI
T/I on146.37/97 rpter or 146.52 simp.

Lakeshore Hamfest *
Sat. - May 13, 2000
Manitowoc Co. Expo
Manitowoc, WI
T/I 146.61 MHz

Princeton HamFest
and Computer Show
Sun. - Jun. 4, 2000
Bureau Co. Fairgrounds
Princeton, IL
T/I on 146.955- PL 103.5

Eau Claire HamFest *
Sat. - Jun. 10, 2000
Eau Claire Co. Exposition Ctr.
Eau Claire, WI

Six Meter Club of Chicago, Inc.
43rd Hamfest *
Sun. - Jun. 11, 2000
DuPage Co. Fairgrounds
Wheaton, IL

ARRL Field Day
June 24 & 25, 2000
Pioneer Village
10 mi North of Cedarburg, WI on Hwy I

Our Repeater

Use it or

lose it.

MRAC Repeater Survey

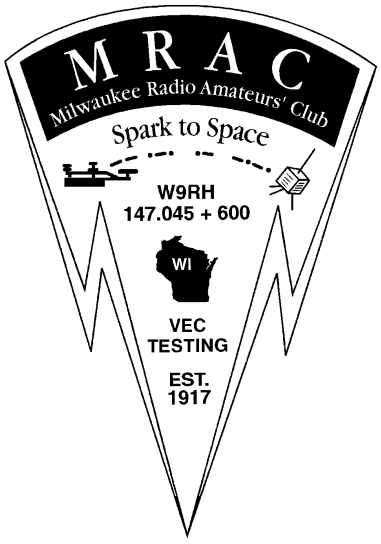
We need to know your feelings concerning nets and any other repeater usage. Presently we have a 2 meter net every Friday night at 9:15 PM. This net is an open topic format and the number of check-ins is usually low, anywhere from one to five operators. We would like to see increased participation in our net as well as increased usage of our repeater, especially since there are tentative plans for the future of this repeater, such as site and should there be a significant investment of money and time on our 147.045/+.600 repeater. We need to know what you think/want. Do we even want or need a repeater.

All ideas are welcome and will be considered.

Do you have 2 meter equipment? ..... Yes ____ No_____
Is it PL compatible? ..... Yes ____ No_____
Are you interested in;
- 2 meter Nets ..... Yes ____ No_____
- Daytime nets? ..... Yes ____ No_____
- Topical nets? ..... Yes ____ No_____
- Different nights and/or times? ..... Yes ____ No_____
- If so, which nights and times? _____

Would you like to be net control? ..... Yes ____ No_____
Could you help out in the technical end? ... Yes ____ No_____
Do you think we need a repeater? ..... Yes ____ No_____

Do you have ideas which might spark interest in OUR repeater?
If so please mention them here: _____
_____
_____
_____



We need ideas which will make our repeater worthy of our moniker.
We ARE interested!

Please complete this survey and either mail it to our P.O. Box or Bring it along to the meeting.

MRAC

This Month's meeting:

Thu. - March 30, 2000 (Y2K)

7:30 PM

Program: Don Michalski W9IXH, ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager

Location: Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!!!

Board meeting: Mon. -March 27, 2000

Next meeting: April 27, 2000

HamateurChatter
Deadline is
April 1, 2000

Table of Contents

April Birthdays 6
Area Nets 1
Birthdays 9
Board Meeting 01/24/00 3
Cieszki's on Sick List 5
Club Meeting 02/26/00 4
Club Officers 1
Club Meetings 8
Club Mentioned in QST 4
Credits 4
Dinosaurs or Not? 3
Doings 5
Events (upcoming) 6
Extra VE Session 4
Feb. VE Testing 4
From the President's Desk 1
Ham Club Activities 6
Loren G. Windom - W8GZ 5
Wanted 3

Our Phone number
(262) 797-MRAC
(797-6722)
New Area Code (262)
starting in September

FROM SPARK TO SPACE

February ,2000 V ol. 08 No. 02

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use our Club Repeater - W9RH 147.045+ offset

M. R. A. C.
MilwaukeeRadio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 25707
Milwaukee, WI 53225